

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO DECLARATION

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ENTITLED

"BRITISH OFFERING DRAFT FOR NATO," DATED LINED BRUSSELS

MAY 22.

"BRITAIN HAS OFFERED A NEW DRAFT FOR A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION THAT, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, MAKES NO REFERENCES TO A SEPARATE EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN THE ALLIANCE.

"A FRENCH TEXT, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE OCTOBER, SAID THAT 'EUROPE HAD A DEFENSE DIMENSION OF ITS OWN' AND THAT EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY HAD A 'FAVORABLE EFFECT' ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE ALLIANCE.

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"THE BRITISH PAPER WAS PRESENTED TO THE ALLIES LAST WEEK AND A FIRST FORMAL DISCUSSION WILL TAKE PLACE AMONG NATO AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS FRIDAY. THE ALLIANCE MEMBERS HOPE TO AGREE ON A FINAL VERSION OF THE DECLARATION AT A MEETING OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN OTTAWA ON JUNE 18 AND 19.

"THE BLOCKING OF THE EC-UNITED STATES PAPER HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE PAPER BECAUSE SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OPPOSE HAVING AN ALLIANCE DECLARATION WITH NO EC DECLARATION TO BALANCE IT. THEY HAVE SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT THE ALLIANCE'S DECLARATION BE REDUCED TO THE LEVEL OF AN 'ANNEX' TO THE NORMAL NATO MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUE THAT WILL COME OUT OF THE OTTAWA MEETING. A THIRD SUGGESTION HAS BEEN TO MAKE THE NATO DECLARATION AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NORMAL MINISTERS' STATEMENT.

"DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY THAT BRITAIN, IN PRESENTING HER NEW DRAFT, LEFT OPEN THE CHOICE OF A DECLARATION OR A LESS DISTINCTIVE TYPE OF PRESENTATION, BUT INDICATED SHE FAVORED THE DECLARATION FORMULA.

"THE BRITISH DRAFT ALSO MENTIONS THE NEED FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE TO PAY ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS BEYOND ITS OWN DEFENSE PERIMETER THAT COULD AFFECT ITS STRATEGIC POSITION.

"THE EUROPEANS, FRANCE IN PARTICULAR, DEFENDED THE NARROW INTERPRETATION OF THE NATO AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH EXCLUDES THE MIDDLE EAST. THE FRENCH DID NOT MENTION THE IDEA IN THEIR DRAFT AND LIMITED THE DECLARATION'S SCOPE TO 'THE ATLANTIC AREA.'

"BRITAIN WAS CHARGED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY HER EC PARTNERS OF WRITING THE NEW DRAFT FOR THE NATO DECLARATION.

"ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN BRUSSELS, THE UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE NINE AT THE TIME WAS THAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT GIVE THE TEXT AN ATLANTIC SLANT AND WOULD NOT PROPOSE THE DECLARATION FORMAT.

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"THE APPARENT BRITISH DECISION TO IGNORE THE GUIDELINES IS ATTRIBUTED TO A RECENT CHANGE IN THE THINKING OF TOP BRITISH LEADERS ON THE SUBJECT.

"ALLIANCE DIPLOMATS IN BRUSSELS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE HOW THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL REACT TO THE BRITISH DRAFT. THE NEW PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, IS BELIEVED TO

BE MORE OPEN THAN HIS PREDECESSORS TO STRENGTHENING ATLANTIC TIES. BUT HE IS ALSO SAID TO FAVOR MAINTAINING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY IN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"IF FRANCE IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THE BRITISH DRAFT, NATO DIPLOMATS BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE

RESOLVED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN OTTAWA.

"BESIDES THE ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS FRIDAY, HIGH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FROM THE NINE COMMON MARKET MEMBERS WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE NATO DECLARATION AT A MEETING IN BONN MAY 27 AND 28.

GUIDANCE FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FOLLOW
SEPTTEL. RUSH

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